(b) if so, what are the measures proposed;

(c) by when they are proposed to be implemented; and

(d) what are the targets being proposed to be fixed for FDI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Steering Committee on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) constituted by the Planning Commission has recommended enhancement of FDI limit to 100% in exploration and production, refining, marketing and oil and gas pipelines through automatic route of approval. This is under consideration of the Government.

(d) There are no specific targets fixed for FDI flow into the Petroleum Sector.

Leakage of gas in Mumbai

4134. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was leakage of gas in Mumbai on 12th February, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) A fire incident took place in Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL)'s gas pipeline at Andheri (E), Mumbai on 13-2-2003.

(b) A company was carrying out Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) for laying the Optical Fibre Cable Ducts. Their drilling rod hit and made a hole in the MGL's gas pipeline resulting in sudden release of gas. At that time a nearby vendor at the road junction lit an incense stick, which resulted into a spontaneous ignition of the escaping gas with high flames.

(c) Some of the steps taken by MGL to avoid such incidents are as under :—

(i) Fixing pipeline markers along the pipeline routes for proper identification.

(ii) Giving pipeline route maps to Concerned State Governments and Municipal Corporations so as to avoid damages by external agencies while carrying out other jobs along the pipeline route.

(iii) Petrolling of pipelines regularly.

(iv) Injecting odorant in the pipeline to help detection of leakage of gas.
(v) Training Ward Officer and Fire Men.
(vi) Coordinating With Fire, Police and Municipal Authorities.

Demand for Petroleum Products

†4135. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to demand of petroleum products in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimated demand of each petroleum product during the current year; and

(c) the details with regard to possibility of hike in prices of petroleum products like LPG, diesel and petrol etc. again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) According to the assessment of oil industry the estimated demand of petroleum products for the current year *i.e.* 2003-04 is as follows :—

(Figures in TMT)*

Product	Demand
LPG	9352
MS	8045
SKO	10664
HSD	37751
ATF	2287
NAPHTHA/NGL	11209
LDO	2138
LUBES/GREASES	1406
FO/LSHS	13068
BITUMEN	3513
OTHERS	7724
ALL PRODUCTS :	107157

(*—Thousand Metric tonne)

(c) Effective 1-4-2002, pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG which are subsidized products, has become market determined.

The oil companies are fixing the prices of petroleum products after taking into consideration the prevalent international oil prices. The variation in future

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi